

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 13-18 are allowed and that claims 1-12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With regards to the Office Action's position that claims 1-12 are currently in a form that leave them meaningless, Applicants respectfully disagree. While it is true that Applicant has disclosed exemplary embodiments involving the use of input sets of three bits, Applicants stress that these embodiments are used for exemplary purposes only. The present invention was not intended to be limited to three bit input sets, and may be implemented where the input mantissa comprises at least one bit. Support can be found at least at page 4 line 15 of the specification, which states:

Typically, the present invention includes a logic design in which the LZA 22 receives sets of three bits of each input operand simultaneously and generates a vector L (predictive bit stream) that has a leading one in the bit position before the leading 0 or 1 of the mantissa sum ("before" in this context typically means "to the left of").

Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, claims 1-12 are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and should be allowed.

For at least all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

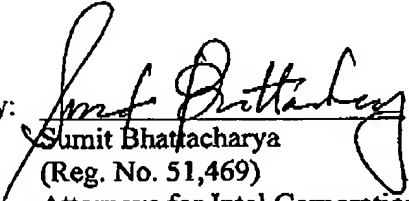
Application No.: 10/057,257
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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON

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By:


Sumit Bhattacharya
(Reg. No. 51,469)
Attorneys for Intel Corporation

KENYON & KENYON
333 W. San Carlos St., Suite 600
San Jose, CA 95110
Telephone: (408) 975-7500
Facsimile: (408) 975-7501
73299